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THEATRE

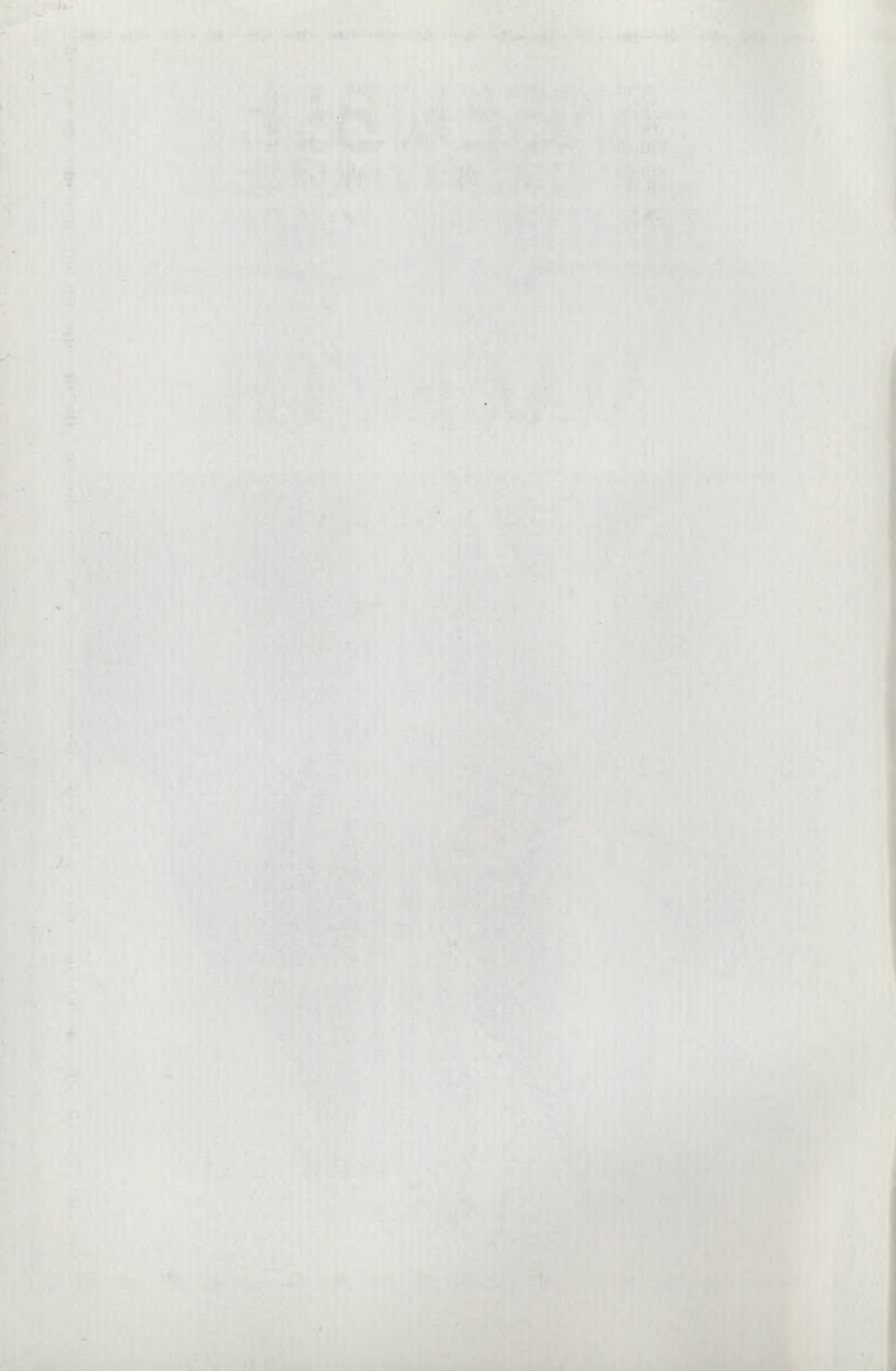


COMPANY

presents

# MACBETH







# **ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY**



**Marvin-Kazembe Jefferson**  
Artistic Director

**Reginald C. Brown**  
Co-Artistic Director

**Presents**

## **MACBETH**

**by**

**William Shakespeare**

**Directed by**

**Marvin-Kazembe Jefferson**

**Stage Manager**

**Alexia E. Vasquez\***

**Featuring**

**Evelyn-Ayana Bateman**

**Stephanie Berry\***

**Reginald C. Brown**

**Kyra Hider\***

**Marvin Kazembe Jefferson\***

**Ron Nelson**

**\*Members of Actors Equity Association**

**June 15 - June 30  
1989**



SHARPE JAMES, MAYOR

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
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# Note From The Artistic Director

## *Welcome, Patrons of the Arts*

In 1981, a cadre of three individuals from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, who all hailed from Newark, NJ (Evelyn-Ayana Bateman, Reginald C. Brown and myself) made a pledge to form a theatre company that would hold true to the values and concepts that were taught to us in college.

These values and concepts spoke to the concerns and needs of African-American people, in particular, and to humankind in general, for a better, more compassionate and understanding way of living.

These are hard and high standards to maintain especially when more "traditional" forms of theatre were/are in high demand. "Issue" oriented theatre was/is not as popular as it was in the 60's and early to mid 70's.

Eight years have past and needless to say, we *have* survived. Our mission is still the same: to perform, produce, direct and create theatre that explore the *complexities* of the *African-American Experience* in particular and the *Human Experience* in general, by using a *variety* of theatrical forms that create a *theatrical experience* for the audience, not just a "play". As our mentor, Avery Brooks once said, "We are not *bound* by Reality, we *create* Reality."

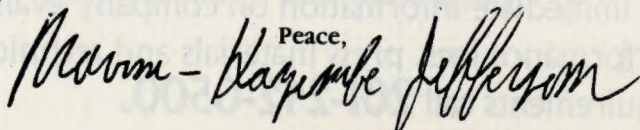
Why Shakespeare? Well due to the *fact* that the Greeks were *directly* influenced by African culture and Shakespeare was highly influenced, morally, by Aesop, the African philosopher. The performing of *MacBeth* by an African-American cast, giving the play an Afrocentric perspective did not seem an unreal premise to me. Also, it is my belief that although Shakespeare is a *great* writer. He is no *greater* than Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, Adrienne Kennedy, James Baldwin, Ntozake Shange, Richard Wesley, Aisha Rahman, Leslie Lee and the list goes on.

*MacBeth* is the tale of a man and woman who convince themselves that *Evil is Good*. *Given the Moral* condition of our nation and world, I can think of no better cautionary tale than this powerful play.

"... It is Midnight, in the Moral Order..."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We thank *The Creator* and *You* for a wonderful Season, see you next year.

Peace,  


Marvin Kazembe Jefferson  
Artistic Director  
Ensemble Theatre Company

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Interested sponsors should contact Black Culture On Tour In America, Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Post Office Box 1025, Newark, New Jersey 07101, or for immediate information on company availability, performance fees, press materials and technical requirements call **201-242-0500**.



# CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Witch #1, Lady MacDuff.....Stephanie Berry

Witch #2, Ross, Malcolm,  
Messenger, Seyton.....Kyra Hider

Witch #3, Duncan, MacDuff,  
Doctor.....Marvin-Kazembe Jefferson

MacBeth.....Reginald C. Brown

Banquo, Messenger.....Ron Nelson

Lady MacBeth.....Evelyn-Ayana Bateman

## TIME

The Past, Present and Hopefully Not The Future

## PLACE

*Urban America*

The action takes place between MacBeth's Home, Duncan's Home and the Streets.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

# Who's Who

**EVEYLN-AYANA BATEMAN (Lady MacBeth).** Ms. Bateman began her theatre career at the N.C.S.A. and at Arts High School. She received a theatre degree from the Mason Gross School of The Arts, where she studied acting and directing with such prominent artists as Avery Brooks, Glenda Dickerson and Bill Esper. Ms. Bateman also directed and performed in major works, such as "Black Cycle", "For Colored Girls . . .", "Spell #7", and "Hair". She most recently directed "She Who Weeps" for E.T.C. Ms. Bateman is a founding member and Associate Director of E.T.C. "I would like to dedicate this work to the Creator, The Ancestors, My Family, The Human Family, E.T.C. and Boo."

**STEPHANIE BERRY (Witch #1, Lady MacDuff),** was last seen in "Lady of Fadima" with the Renegade Theatre. She is currently developing a musical/theatre piece on the evolution of African American music with her theatre company, Blackberry Production. She was also seen in the Crossroads Productions of "Spell #7" and "The Mojo and The Sayso". Ms. Berry is happy to be performing with the Ensemble Theatre Company.

**REGINALD C. BROWN (MacBeth),** Mr. Brown pursued his acting career at Seton Hall University for two years until he transferred to Rutgers University. There he studied acting and directing with Avery Brooks, David Galikowski and Michael Nash. Upon graduating from Rutgers, Mr. Brown co-founded the Ensemble Theatre Company, where he has acted and directed extensively. Mr. Brown is Co-Artistic Director of E.T.C. This production marks Mr. Brown's third performance on the stage at Crossroads. "All praises due to the Creator, my family, E.T.C., Evelyn, Marv and brother Ken". Peace.

**KYRA HIDER (Witch #2, Ross, Malcolm, Messenger, Seyton),** was last seen as Ivy in "Playboy of the West Indies", at Crossroads Theatre. Kyra's other appearance in the New York area as Curly in "Peter Pan", at ESIPA at the Egg in Albany, New York. Her other roles include, Phillis and Desdemonia in "The Middle Passage", at the Bristol Riverside Theatre, in Bristol, Pennsylvania and Joice Heth in "Barnum" at the Bucks County Playhouse. Further regional credits include, Actress #1 in "A . . . My Name Is Alice", at the Group Theatre, in Seattle, Washington, Crystal in "Little Shop of Horrors" at ACT in Seattle, Suzanne Walcott in "The Crucible" at the Milwaukee Rep and Alice's Daughter in "Big River" at the La Jolla Playhouse.



# In The Cast

**MARVIN-KAZEMBE JEFFERSON (Witch #3, Duncan, MacDuff, Doctor)**, was last seen at Crossroads as Jim in "Playboy of the West Indies." He also created the roles of Hezekiah and Lias in "To Gleam It Around", "To Show My Shine". Both productions were in Crossroads' 1988-89 season. This is Marvin's third venture into acting *and* directing the classics. "Antigone" was performed at the Stella Lass Theatre in Newark, NJ and "Richard III" at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, NJ. Marvin is the Artistic Director of The Ensemble Theatre Company. This production is dedicated to the Creator, My Family, Ayana my love, Reg. and The Spirit of E.T.C. Peace.

**RON NELSON (Banquo, Messenger)**. This is Mr. Nelson's third season with the Ensemble Theatre Company. Ron has also appeared in "Shades of Black", "Richard III", "Kabnis" and most recently "The Meeting". Mr. Nelson was last seen as Luke in the Montclair State College Production of "The Amen Corner".

**ALEXIA E. VASQUEZ (Stage Manager)**. Alexia is a New York University graduate with a B.A. in Film and TV. She worked for NBC, MTV and Jane Aaron's "Set in Motion" (1987 Turnee' of Animation), as well as directing her short films, "Incaica" and "Walking in Your Footsteps". Alexia would like to thank the cast and crew of the Ensemble Theatre Company for the opportunity to work on this play.

**EBUN PYNE-BAILY (Lighting Director)**. This is Eburn's first show with the Ensemble Theatre Company. We hope it's not the last.

## SPECIAL THANKS

To the Creator, to Reg., Ayana, and the entire MacBeth Cast and Staff (Alexia you are a god send!). To Carol, for without her giving and persistent spirit this production would not exist. To the NCSA Staff. To Crossroads, Rick, Ken, Andre, and everyone on the Staff, Thank You for your courage which is very rare and to all those who we did not mention, Thanks.

M.K.J.

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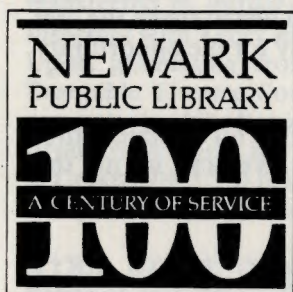
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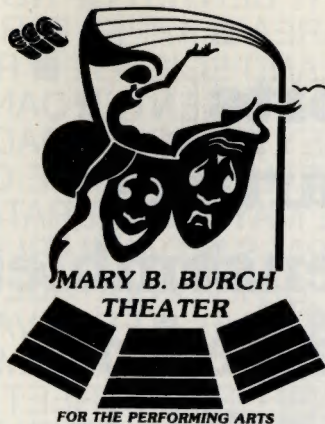
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